

Faulk, Camilla

From: Robert O'Neal [roneal@snocopda.org]
Sent: Friday, April 29, 2011 2:18 PM
To: Faulk, Camilla
Subject: Please Enact CrR 4.11

I am a career public defender. I see very little legitimate reason not to give defense, through counsel, a right to record witness interviews.

Witness recordings may be used by both sides in any case; the existence of a recording in no way biases the outcome of a case for or against either party.

Recordings are simply superior to human memory or note taking. They are more accurate, detailed, and objective.

I imagine law enforcement is the primary voice against these recordings. I expect their stated objections have to do with an alleged "intimidation" factor that civilian witnesses may theoretically experience. I am confident, however, that the real problem they have is that recordings are useful ways to objectively scrutinize the testimony of all witnesses, civilian and law enforcement professional alike.

I defy anyone to present a compelling reason, in this era of technology, why recording witness interviews should not be required to ensure quality in our criminal justice system.

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